WE'RE BACK!

MR VERA'S

ORIGINAL HOMEMADE

ATIU JOURNAL

No 36 DECEMBER 12 1988 Atiu-Cook Islands $1.50

Independent

Religion

LEFT: Jean Calvin (1509-1564), early protestant church revolutionary whose thinking on predetermined heaven and hell and man's correct conduct on earth is one of the many complex sources from which CICC sprung. The current wave of "born again" fervour appears to be rolling into the Cook Islands on a tide of anti-Calvinism...viz: man, get immersed, lick that Satan and nothing need be pre-determined if you've got Jesus!

AUE TE HORROR!

— DEVILMANIA STRIKES ATIU

The young lady turned restlessly in her bed. It was one of those hot, heavy, humid nights which have brought little sleep to Atiuans these last three weeks.

She flung an arm carelessly across her single bed. The arm collided with a body. stretched out next to her.

"Get out!" she shouted at the body.

Ashamed and bewildered, a young mapu muttered his apologies.

"I don't know what came over me," he protested, "I think Satan was inside me!"

His friends in one of the many recently sprung=up groups of "born again" Christians on Atiu agreed.

"Satan is like that," they solemnly noted. "The devil's power is very strong. Only Jesus can defeat him!"

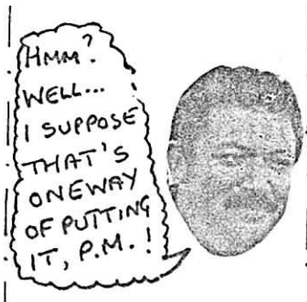
THIS ISSUE'S COVER

Incantation, Exorcism, satanic burning, midnight ritual! It's all happening on Atiu!!! Page 3.

"THEY ARE KILLING OUR CHURCH" INSIDE

INSIDE

POLITICS & POLICY



Meanwhile...on Mangaia.....!!

It's still the only game in town! Special pre-election political coverage inside PLUS..... FOUR BIGGIES TIPPED TO LOSE!!!

MR VERA'S ATIU JOURNAL

Independent

P. O. ATIU
Cook Islands

a national publication

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This publication is independent of all political parties and factions in the Cook Islands.

EDITOR: "vera"

Happy the Brain!

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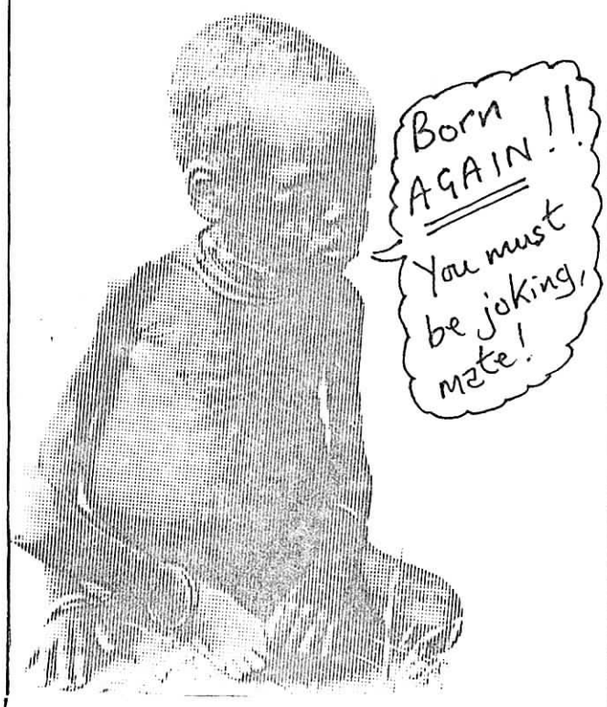
JUSTICE FOR THE BORN AGAIN



A little publicised function of the Minister of Justice Ngatupuna David concerns the registration of churches in the Cook Islands.

The Minister bases his decisions on whether or not to issue certificates of registration to a new church upon advice from the Department of Justice.

Certification demands that a church refrain from disturbing others, avoids overt soliciting for membership and does not become involved in politics.

The system has enabled the country to live peaceably without religious strife and some dozen new churches have been registered in addition to the original "Big Four", CICC, SDA, LDS and RC.

Each of the 16 is a separately recognised church with an international and national structure which involves recognition of its responsibility, in terms of existing in the Cook Islands, to the Minister of Justice.

Cults, sects, factions and so forth are not registered. There is no way they can be unless somehow they slip through using one of the main churches as a "front".

The main Protestant and Catholic churches have factions which amount to no more than sects or cults.

Most appear fairly harmless. They are monitored by church authorities and they have little chance of setting themselves up in the Cook Islands.

Or so we all thought.

The protection against "Jonestown" cultists or some of the overtly right wing extremist revivalist US groups getting a foothold here is that they would have to first register with the Ministry of Justice.

However, the loose structure of the CICC seems to offer a chance for virtually any Protestant sect to enter the country under CICC's wing and set themselves up as a proselytising group or even, eventually, a "church".

Alarming reports exist to suggest that this process is solidly underway in Mangaia.

Equally disturbing is the knowledge that on Atiu the so-called "Hallelujah Chorus" is considered in some quarters to be a significant group which budding politicians might do well to court.

Our politicians, moreover, have never displayed outstanding levels of courage when dealing with religious pressure groups.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

Editorial

Comment

Fairly fearless commentary on what's going on on both sides of the lagoon. Any ressemblance to actual persons living or dead is totally intentional.

Martin Luther (by Cranach)...all man needs is faith in God and the Bible so that he can live according to God's will. Another confused strand of theology woven into the "born again" message, along with casting out of devils, speaking in tongues and apocalyptic prophesy.

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

The so-called "born again" movement leaves itself open to massive exploitation. The Bakker and Swaggert cases in the USA offer disturbing evidence of the public "rip-offs" with which the "born-again" movement is associated many people's minds.

The amounts of sheer cash available to some revivalist/born again movements and churches is phenomenal....sometimes exceeding our own GDP! The Oral Roberts Foundation alone could, reportedly, buy out the Cook Islands several times over!

The fact that many a socialist would find the born again movement repulsive in a developing nation such as ours, however, is not sufficient reason to drag it into the public arena for analysis.

The fact that the Youth with a Mission Group which came to Atiu in 1988 appears to be a front for several revivalist churches which seem to be operating in the Cook Islands under the auspicies of CICC is good reason, though, to look carefully at the process which could take place.

CICC COULD be used by unwelcome born again movements to penetrate the Cook Islands for reasons which are not in the interests of the community as a whole.

In fact, one fully established church (the Assembly of God) appears to be virtually operating here now, according to reports we have received

Our protection is the procedure required by the law through the Minister of Justice.

He and all politicians have a duty not to "chicken out" of the often difficult political implications of religious supervision.

The born again movement world-wide contains crazies, family wreckers, nutters and charlatans...as well as many good, decent folks.

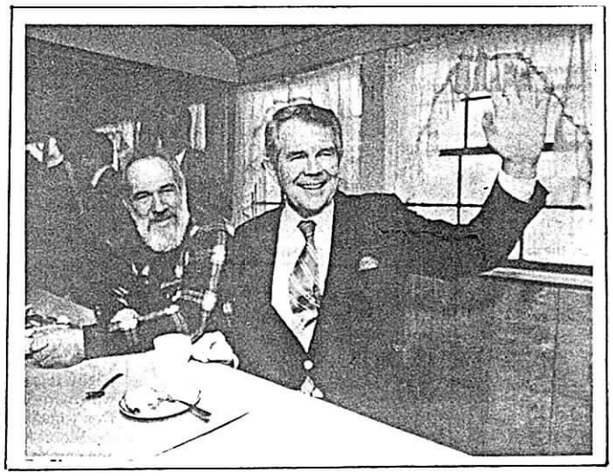
It has often been the refuge of the psychologically disturbed.

So far on Atiu, it appears to have caused some disruption among christians and has radically altered accepted CICC sacraments and practices.

On Rarotonga, there is anxiety that it may be about to enter the political field.

The Religious Advisory Council might well be advised themselves to monitor the whole born again movement very closely.

BORN AGAIN: A SAMPLE



Revivalist and US Presidential candidate Pat Robertson (above) and Assembly of God leader Jimmy Swaggart (below).

Little has been heard internationally of Robertson since he "bombed out" in the 1988 Super Tuesady primaries for the US Republican Party nomination.

Swaggart, like the fellow-evangelist husband and wife Bakker team, has also taken more of a back seat recently. In his case (and in that of the Bakkers) after US media exposures of sex-scandals.

Nevertheless, business is still reportedly booming in US evenagelism and the third world is said to be targetted for heavy pressure in the 90's.

BORN AGAIN— AGAIN:

Scene: A back room on the fourth floor of the Tabernacle of the Sacred Sinners for Salvation Inc. (c/o Private Bag, Twisted Cans, Arkansas). Not long before the millennium.

An assorted congregation of mapu with a mission, repentant tumunu owners and defrocked CIP's assemble around an altar of unopened stein cartons. They hum in tongues, embrace each other and occasionally fall down in ecstasy.

Stretched out on the altar is a rather luscious fallen mapu girl who is possessed of the devil. The devil got into her last Monday after Girl Guides parade when she wasn't alert. He threw stones on her roof and climbed in through the louvres. The devil was very persuasive:

"I am the Way," he declared.

"No, you're not," protested the fallen mapu girl.

"Yes I am," said Lucifer.

"Oh, all right," said the mapu girl and fell again.

Enter Hiram Z. Gobbler III Jr., evangelist, adjusting mike.

BELOW: The most famous revivalist of them all, Rev. Billy Graham (here honoured by TIME magazine on his recent 70th birthday.

It was Graham who defined in most people's minds the classic born again approach...mass singing, show-biz presentation, fever-pitch declamatory sermons personal testimony and public declaration for Jesus.

C.I.L.P.

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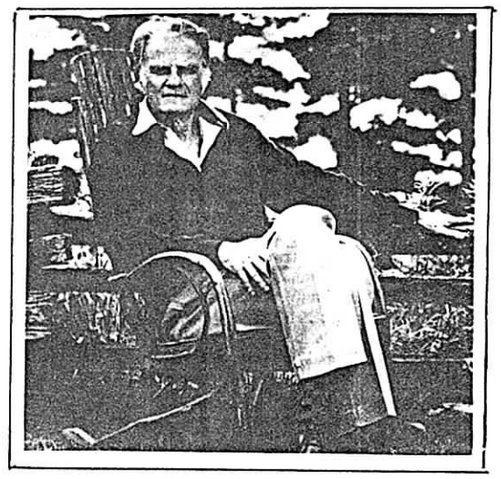
FOR THE PEOPLE....

FOR YOU AND ME....

FOR.....

LABOUR



GOBBLER (turning up valume): Hallelujah sisters and bros. What's the problem with this one ? She appears to be in the clutches of Satan, I'd say.

CONGREGATION (in tongues): Ngatrfrsuerikhu-rnkloustratyheby.....

GOBBLER: Hallelujah.

FALLEN MAPU GIRL: (vomiting) Satan's got me.

GOBBLER: (pummelling fallen mapu girl) Praise the Lord. Get out Devil! Out! I command thee ghastly commie pinko state-controlled dole-bludging Satanic anti-nuclear manifestation of evil....Out!...(turns to cameras). There8 O.K. now?

FALLEN MAPU GIRL: No! No! The Evil one is still within me.

GOBBLER: (close-up) Really? In that case honey you'd better loosen your knickers.

CONGREGATION: Hallelujah.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

AML

AFTER WORK
WEEK-ENDS
TONIGHT

COME
TO
AUNTIE
KURA

WELCOME

COVER

"No, but Seriously"

The people on the Minister's verandah were deadly serious.

They were also some of the nicest folks around. Friends. Good neighbours. Mates. Pleasant, soft-spoken, fresh-faced young men and women from Britain from NZ, Australia and the US.

Nor were they unpleasant or argumentative when you became rude, abusive, outraged...even overtly hostile in sheer frustration.

The other cheek was defiantly turned. A gentle look of withering self-righteousness and profound pity for you followed.

Relevant verses from scripture were calmly recited.

You screamed inwardly at the arrogance, the affrontery, the collossal cheek, man, of their unspoken claim to KNOW EVERYTHING...and, Hallelujah, to forgive YOU for knowing NOTHING!

Then..no more inward screams. Just horror!

A woman of about forty is pinned to the floor, hammerlocked and half-nelsoned by friends and neighbours. God help us...MY friends and neighbours!

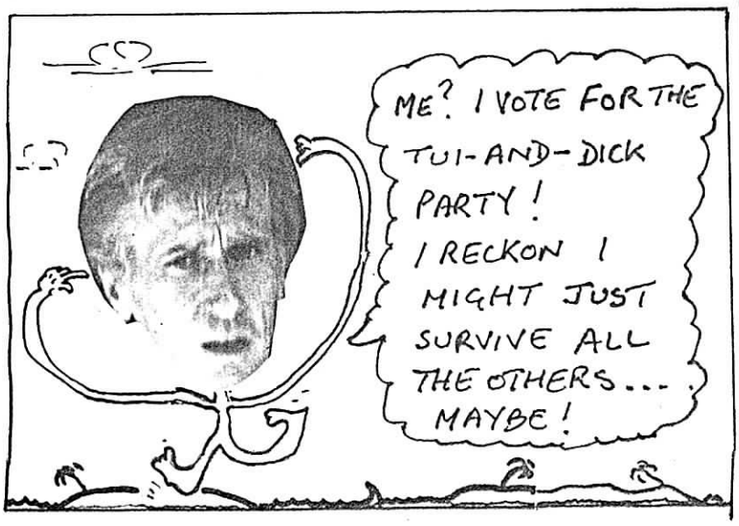
She heaves and writhes. The hammerlocks turn into veritable boston crabs and the minister kneels and pounds the verandah floor like some evangelical referee counting out another challenger for the celestial title.

She screams piercingly. She retches from the depths of her being. The scream turns into the sort of high-pitched howl that is on the soundtrack of "Ballmangler V1" when they reach the exorcism scene.

Then she vomits.

Some sticky, frothy green slime streams out of the corner of her mouth and runs wetly across the tipani print of her pareu.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE



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IT'S GOT TO BE TURA

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

The voices around her rise.

"Out! Out! Get out! You devil, leave this woman. "Eff off...or curses to that effect!"

The calls rise to a climax. Wild. Shrieking. Angry.

The woman flings her body across the verandah, jerking, twitching...the eyes bulging from the skull.

More bodies are flung fully across her, pinning her until she subsides with short, rasping snuffles...the vomit now spread across her neck and shoulders.

The Minister arises, sweat streaming from him.

And this, too, is MY FRIEND!! A mate, for Christ's sake!

"I think He's gone. We've beaten Him this time!"

"Who ?"

"Satan!"

"I don't believe this, old friend!"

"No. You could be right. He will probably be back. If we are not on our guard!"

"No. Not the devil. I mean YOU, mate. How did you ever get into this stuff?"

He is patient with me. Like a social worker a new IHC case for the first time.

"This woman was visited by Satan. She had a dream. It involved a Tahitian. He came to her in the night. But it wasn't him. It was Satan."

"Hey, old friend, wake up! You've seen too many videos!"

He takes pity on me and smiles sympathetically.

He then opens his bible, flicks through the pages and proves it all.

"You see ?" he states.

"God help us!" I mutter.

"Hallelujah, brother," says my once drinking and fishing mate.

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ATIU COLLEGE

THANKS

Atiu College would like to extend it warmest regards and deepest appreciation to all those who have assisted in making the inaugural 1988 Form Six Education Development Programme such an enormous success.

The Parents and School Committee for many thousands of dollars raised.

The Atiu Office in Rarotonga and MP's for their invaluable help in liaison and communications.

Mr. & Mrs. Dawn Turner and their contacts in NZ for many donations.

Sister Colleges Tereora, Nukutere and Mangaia for texts and materials.

The Atiu Island Council and the CAO for transport and local government assistance.

Air Rarotonga Ltd and AML Ltd. for endless favours.

USP and Mr. John Herrmann for all the encouragement.

SO

A teacher from Mangaia, where the born again movement appears to have split whole sections of society apart is very disturbed by the impact of evangelical christianity in the form recently brought to the Cook Islands by US-style professional preachers and their local counterparts and by young, and pften very inexperienced, white missionaries.

"The CICC," he explains, " is more than religion. It is the very centre of our social structure. Attack it. Let it disintegrate..and there is a threat to the very existence of our fragile, tiny Outer Islands societies."

That is not the voice of a die-hard conservative deacon.

It is the voice of an educated young community leader whose "Maori-Outer Island" credentials are unassailable.

An Atiuan deacon offers a similar thought, though admittedly from a more self-interested standpoint.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

"These people are killing our church!"

-Deacon on the subject of the born againers.

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RA

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

"The 'Hallelujah Chorus' are challenging the whole of society...a peaceful, well-organised society. They are prepared to upset all social patterns. They accept only the rules they care to accept. They are very obstinate and difficult to reason with. As soon as it suits them, they ignore reason and quote their understanding of the bible."

A senior Roman Catholic offers his concern about what he sees is "heretical" or anti-Christian in some of the "born again" procedures.

"Some of what they get up to, the demon-casting out, the incantations, the mass baptisms, the emphasis on mystic experience, the emotional outpourings of testimony...these come close to the occult. There seems to be a disturbing association of faith with magic."

An RC priest comments, "Divine intervention and the personal knowledge of God and Jesus are claims that have a long historical background. They can lead to extremely disturbing consequences sometimes...both for the individual and for the community."

What the outsider sees on Atiu is probably distorted but, in most minds, it represents what the "born again" movement stands for... exclusive knowledge of Jesus, personal revelation, emotional testimony PLUS (visibly) cult-like prayer meetings, truckloads of public baptisms, an obsession with the living presence of the Devil and massive self-righteousness.

The public face of the "Hallelujah Chorus" has been scarred on Atiu by three highly controversial "episodes".

In May 1988, a public burning took place on the Atiu village Green of a CICC altar cloth (valued at $10,000) which had been donated by the highly talented immigrant resident artist Andrea Manske-Emke.

Mrs. Manske's work, based upon Christian and Egyptian symbols, was deemed to contain woven into it the face of the Devil. The sybolism she used was judged to reflect satanic influences prophesised in the book of Revealations.

Hence, one morning, on the Green, Atiu relived the Dark Ages.

The altar cloth was stripped from the church and publically burned.

No witch's ducking stool was available and no one could find a suitable stake...so Mrs Manske herself survived!

Prior to last Easter's excitements, Atiu was a-buzzing with news of a rumoured midnight visit to the caves by "born-againers"..allegedly searching out the devil among the bones of the dead.

This rumour was never confirmed but the third "episode" (the casting out of devils) was visible to all.

It was rapidly followed by a visit from faith healer Apii Piho and the curious incineration of the house of a non-believer (or a believer...or someone mysteriously connected with it all etc).

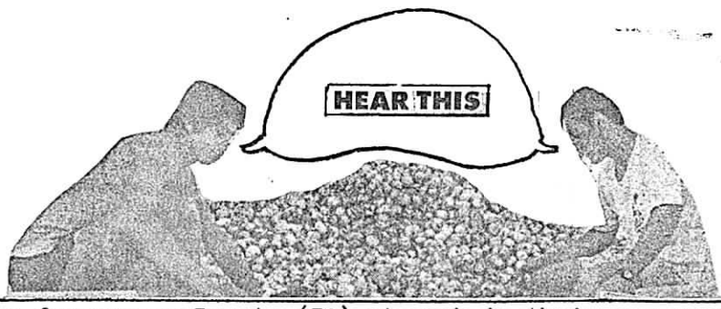
Some observers have tried to rationalise the "christian" content of the born again movement on Atiu.

Several strands in Christian history can be readily identified.

There is certainly involved a reaction to Calvinist pre-determination, a strong element in CICC thinking and one with an obvious appeal to Polynesia.

Our "born againers" prefer the chance Jesus appears to offer

SEE THE NEXT PAGE



Onion farmers on Rurutu (FP) at work in their new government drier. The tiny Outer Island produced over 80 tonnes of onions in 1988! Surely a sad, sad comment upon our own agricultural progress in the industry which lip service claims is the "backbone" of the people's lives.

A LABOUR ELECTION ISSUE

* I WISH TO APPLY FOR VACANCY AS CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT AT CIBNC ! Trans. ED.

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

of being "born again" and achieving personal salvation no matter what might have been pre-ordained.

At the same time, they appear to accept the Calvinist work ethic. Man, to a "born againer" is most certainly judged by what he says and does...or rather by what he does NOT say and does NOT do.

Confusion is added, though, by the fact that the Calvinist work ethic is not accompanied by a corresponding Calvinist gloom.

The "born againers" are joyous people, eager to please, desirous of social acceptance.

They are incredibly nice people, ever willing to listen ...before telling you why you are wrong!

They play sport, dance, have fun, do good works etc etc.

They are utterly without hypocrisy.

They are Lutheran in their reliance on personal faith and the Bible, Catholic in the totality of their belief, mainstream Protestant in their economic values, and almost Mormon in their use of personal testimony, acceptance of divine intervention and basic fundamentalism.

They are also possessed by a curiously fatalistic view of society and the historical process, being very fond of Nostradamus (or, at least, Orson Welles' version of Nostradamus) and the Book of Revelations.

They suspect that AIDS, the melting of the polar ice cap, the greenhouse effect and Ronald Reagan are all part of God's divine plan. As such, they seem to deny any faith in God's mercy and prefer to see Him as a kind of eternal Norman George devising celestial legislation to deal with trouble-making papa'as.

They are all things to all men..eternally nice...and eternally prey to white US foreign churches whose contribution to the everlasting problems of the third world has, in all too many cases, been support for South Africa, calls for the nuking of kambodian kommies and their likes, tacit and overt support for dictatorships and capitalist exploitation of the planet's resources...so there!

They are on an easy wicket. No politician will dare oppose them. Culturally, they are home and hosed, having put the Hallelujah Chorus to the beat of an ura pau. And, above all, they are very, very, very nice people.

To complete the defensive screen, they are very happy to seek martyrdom.

Not that they are alone in that! Some [illegible] the Cook Islands government...but though our wages may be mediaeval, we don't burn altar cloths!

NO WAR

It musn't be thought from our cover story that the JOURNAL has declared war on the revivalists.

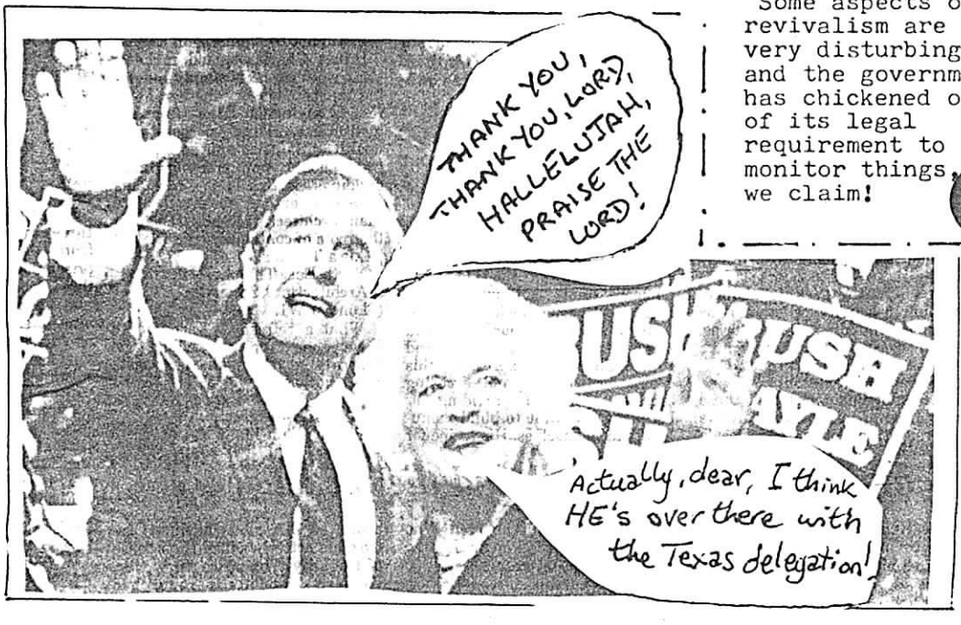
That will be the reaction, of course. But it is not a justified one.

The Atiuan and Mangaian revivalists are our respected friends. So are leaders of revivalist Christian movements on Rarotonga such as Tutai Pere, Ngarima George, Bobby Matapo and Brian Chitty.

We are members of the Ekalesia Sanito in Tahiti (properly and legally registered here) and go about our spiritual business without bothering anyone.

And THAT is the JOURNAL's point.

Some aspects of revivalism are very disturbing and the government has chickened out of its legal requirement to monitor things, we claim!



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Tura Koronui stands in Atiu against Norman George.

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Stymie'd

Politically?

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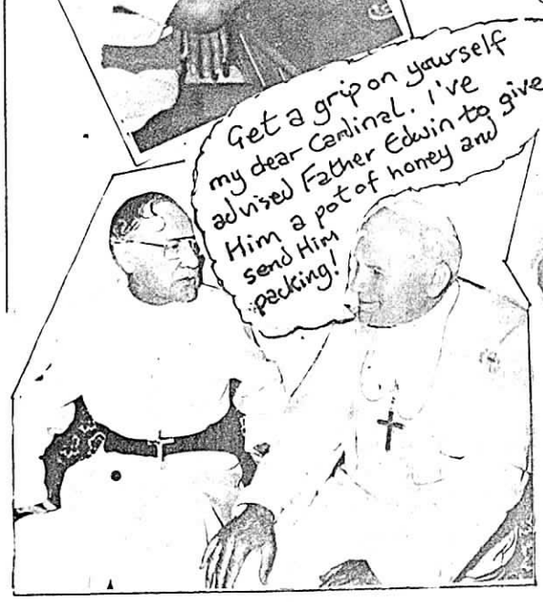
RA

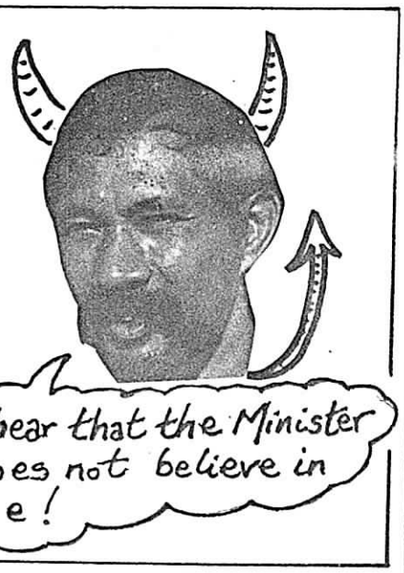
IT'S THE DEVIL!

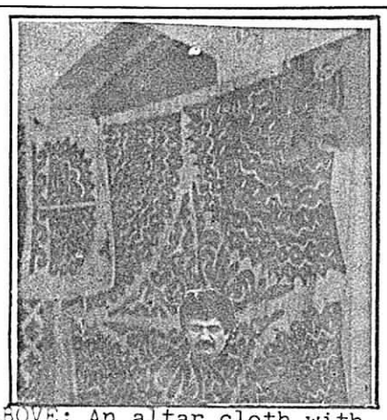
KIA ORANATATOU! I would like to introduce our latest entrepreneural adviser on development, ...MR. LUCIFER BEELZEBUB of Hades Inc!



Hallelujah, Brother General... yeah.. we got his horns in our sights right now... sure thing... bro'... !*!*!! the infinite mercy and nuke the !*!*!*! back below... ... ... sure... ... Ezekial 20 (7-8).. right on, brothers and sisters... Praise the Lord!
1ST BATTALION CHURCH OF THE MISSILES FOR GOD
Made in USA

I think we should take the opportunity to hold a really good community debate while the fellow's here.. I'm pretty sure I can get the Rev. Tutai and Ngarima. It's only a question of lining up Lucifer, so I'll have a word with Tepou.....!





ABOVE: An altar cloth with what is alleged by CIP's to be the face of the devil woven into it. Government sources, however, state that it is an ancient likeness of St. Tepou, patron saint of Peasat Operators.
BELOW: A large pigm, formerly possessed of the devil, is ritually exorcised.

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VISIT HELL WHILE YOU'RE STILL ON EARTH!
150 LITTLE MISERABLE FAMILIES!
ROAST AWHILE IN ATIU...AND LET ALL YOUR TRAUMAS COME TRUE!

CAST OUT THY CARES
HAVE A DEVIL OF A TIME
ON ATIU!!

ABOVE: A typical visitor greeted by a friendly local Atiuan.....(right).

And so here's the (GOOD) news (FOLKS)

POLITICS

THE ISSUES-LESS ELECTION

It looks like the public might get well served by the media, after all. Respected Raro photo-journo Lawrance Bailey, in fact, believes the media this time may be quite important in determining the election's outcome. Our contribution is a regular look at things from the voter's point of view. We leave most of the leaders' statements *to our better equipped colleagues in Raro.* This week, one voter's current thoughts plus some background history.....

CON-NED-FESSIONS OF A VOTER

Politics is about all sorts of things. To Americans it is about power. To liberal Western European democrats, it is about issues. To Eastern European socialists it is about economics.

The developed world as a whole would like to think it is about the distribution of wealth.

The third world as a whole knows it is about the simple opposite. Politics is all about the accumulation of wealth...personally.

A bewildered liberal Kiwi broadcaster once interviewed a well-known PNG journo on the subject of the alleged 3000 plus candidates standing for the upcoming seats in Moresby.

The PNG man found the question naive. He knew his 3rd world.

"There are so many candidates," he explained, "because politics is our only way of becoming very rich!"

Our forthcoming election is now a thoroughly 3rd world election.

It is also one of the less desirable of the genre. This is because the one saving grace of a few developing world elections is missing.

In Africa and Asia, in some parts of the South Pacific (the Solomons, for example) and in Latin America, elections offer idealism, protest parties, young upstarts and "system-knockers" of all hues.

They often don't get in, of course. But they perform a function. They challenge. They keep humanity ticking over to a rhythm far less mind-bending and soul-destroying than the beat of greed on the drums of rhetoric.

By contrast, our election offers a plethora of factions, not on single one of which has produced a solid policy proposal about how to acquire, plan, manage and distribute the national wealth for the next five years.

We have a governing faction split into three power-hungry camps and still trying to explain to the electorate what its name is!

We have a major opposition faction represented on Atiu by a NZ returner back after 30 years and a Norman George "victim" whose main issue is, inevitably, Norman George.

The burning question of the hour is, honest, who is or is not a CIP!

We have a minor faction whose platform is that they should really bear the name of one the major factions.

We have two parties both formed in the last three months since the five years which have elapsed since the last election.

One of them lays claim to international Labour status and has yet to offer an economic

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programme and is about to present a candidate to Atiu of the traditional "back from NZ to represent MY people" type!

The other party is one of the zillion committees headed by Cookie!

As a JOURNAL correspondent wrote last week, "the coming election will probably go down as the Chop Suey Election of 1989...what a kettle of worms! Every political candidate is promiscuously available to jump into the political bed with whomever will pay the highest price. Any commitment to high ideals or a political platform has been seriously compromised."

The writer concludes "The second election by the elected MP's, when they trade their voices and their votes will ultimately decide the outcome. A sad state of affairs."

Sad indeed! And very sad for the few candidates who are in it out of genuine conviction on behalf of the people.

But that is what third world elections are basically all about...becoming wealthy. Salaries, pensions, houses, trips, largesse, cars, pay-offs.. that's what it's all about. Not platforms and ideals. They exist as a charade played for the few who might be interested.

No one, but no one, has the remotest five year plan for the acquisition, planning, management and distribution of national wealth.

Just its personal accumulation.

And, man, have I tried to find something more by way of inspiration!

As readers of the JOURNAL will know, we had a spot of bother earlier in the year when it appeared that our MP had signed away our land! Now, in the Cook Islands you don't do that twice! Consequently, it's Geoff Henry for PM all the way.. ..until the CIP offer us a candidate who hasn't been near Atiu for nearly 30 years and is building his house in Raro ... until, out of a naive faith in the one single viable governing party, you see the age-old queue of prospective appointees ready for the post-election goodies...and until you see hovering behind the Great Man himself the shadowy figures of THAT Australian financial connection yet again...

So then, there's Rena...and the prospect of a real political platform until...along comes another "carpet-bagtoting" candidate out of darkest NZ appointed by Central Office...and until you've a day left to find a real Atiuan to stand up for your interests as a candidate willing to stand purely on principle (HO! HO!).

So, my God, let's take the final 3rd World desperation solution. A plague on the lot of them!

What would they know about life on ciguaterra and $12 buck chooks, no housing loan, bounced cheques, nothing in the bank, 14 hour days, no vehicle, the pits of Maori family existence in Paradise?

No wonder they haven't got a platform to make it all better!

They wouldn't even know there's a problem!

Boycott! That's the answer! Like the South Korean opposition. And the Chileans. And the Bangla Deshis.

Opposition so far-reaching that it opposes even the opposition.

That's what it looks like this week.

Maybe things will change, though.

Maybe someone will come quietly and humbly into our kitchen and say, "I want to make myself rich and have trips and loans and all the goodies due to a representative of the people ... now, what can I do for you?"

Unlikely, though.

No one's done it so far. And they've had five years in which to do it!

HISTORY LESSONS

March 1978

CIP Government returned under Sir Albert Henry in landslide after special votes from the CIP fly-in charters are counted. The initial tally indicated a Democratic Party Government under Tom Davis. It was removed within half an hour after the announcement over the radio of the special vote count.

Main Election Issues:

*The Overseas voter (both sides claimed to have a majority overseas and both sides organised fly-in charters.)

*A deteriorating economy after 13 years of CIP rule; charges of corruption and nepotism in government.

*Brakes on private sector development alleged by the Demos.

Tangaroa Tangaroa led a Demo rump opposition in the new Parliament while angry Demos were secretly instructed by letter and tape to sit tight and await court action. Rumours of secession threats by Mangaia and Penrhyn.

August 1978

Judge Gavin Donne dismisses CIP government and replaces all CIP's receiving fly-in votes by Demos. Tom Davis forms first Demo administration with a two thirds constitutional majority. Albert Henry barred from politics, later stripped of knighthood. Widespread acrimony attends selection of CIP leadership with an intense in-house battle rumoured at party and family level between Geoffrey Henry and Tupui Henry. Geoffrey Henry wins out.

Main Legislation:

*Constitutional amendments introducing single candidate constituencies on Rarotonga, a third seat on Mangaia and the overseas seat (judged by some to have been Tom Davis' most ill-advised move as it created the even number of 24 seats and the built-in potential for a hung Parliament).

*Alteration to the life of Parliament by increasing it to five years.

*A new flag and national anthem

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*Arguably the first serious attempt to introduce high-level economic planning on a centralised basis. (Vincent Ingram's major contribution to CIs. development).

March 1983

Overconfident Demos misread the national mood that they were never properly elected back in '78. A last minute, hastily put together campaign cannot stand up to a well-organised campaign in which Tupui Henry rounds up the old CIP "natural majority" for Geoffrey Henry.

Main Issue:

*The 1978 court case and the court-imposed Demo government's legitimacy.

PM Sir Thomas Davis sensationally loses his Avatiu seat and Vincent Ingram leads a ten-man opposition against the Geoffrey Henry 14, including the first ever post-independence woman Minister, Fanara Kingstone.

On paper the strongest cabinet ever assembled in the Cook Islands, if not in the South Pacific as a whole, the government is soon operating under the pressure of hesitant leadership and a concerted attack from within by Tupui Henry aided by Vincent Ingram.

Tupui's resignation and the death of MP Matapo Matapo leaves a 12-12 hung Parliament.

QR Sir Gavin Donne heads a caretaker government from August on, led by Geoffrey Henry with new elections planned for November.

November 1983

Vincent Ingram and Tupui Henry call for a national coalition (the first use of the notorious word in the Cook Islands) and fight a joint campaign against Geoffrey Henry's CIP's.

The Tupui family candidates help to squeeze Tom Davis back in Avatiu. Tupui loses his own seat in Mauke and Vincent hands over Parliamentary leadership of the new Demo government to party leader Davis.

Main Issue:

*The Tupui-Geoffrey split over CIP leadership which causes a loss of government for the CIP's and Tupui's long-standing claim that Geoffrey cannot win and the CIP's will never restore their "natural majority" without the Albert Henry family.

The Demos splinter almost immediately. Vincent Ingram finds an ally in disaffected Mangaian Pa Pokino. A battle royal takes place over whether the Central Party Executive or the constituency committees control the candidates and the resultant members. Pokino and Ingram are supported at the last ever National Demo party conference by the constituencies. Chairman Teariki Matenga declares in CI News a peaceful resolution of problems and never calls another conference!

August 1984

The Demos struggle on, in spite of internal opposition from Pokino and Ingram (now no longer in Cabinet), but the two rebels announce that they will not support the Davis budget.

Davis and Geoffrey Henry meet. A coalition deal is worked out with Tangaroa Tangaroa and Tangata Simiona resigning in favour of two CIP's and are promised QR and Ombudsman respectively. Demo deputy gets the new post of Chairman of Cabinet and Geoffrey Henry assumes the title of Deputy PM. (although no one can remember Davis ever formally admitting it).

Ingram and Pokino form a two-man opposition in the face of massive pro-coalition propaganda announcing taokotaianga, the Maori Way and peaceful co-existance.

*The Mini-Games gets under way.

*The "Infrastructure" unit (Davis' private development task force) runs foul of MOW under G. Henry.

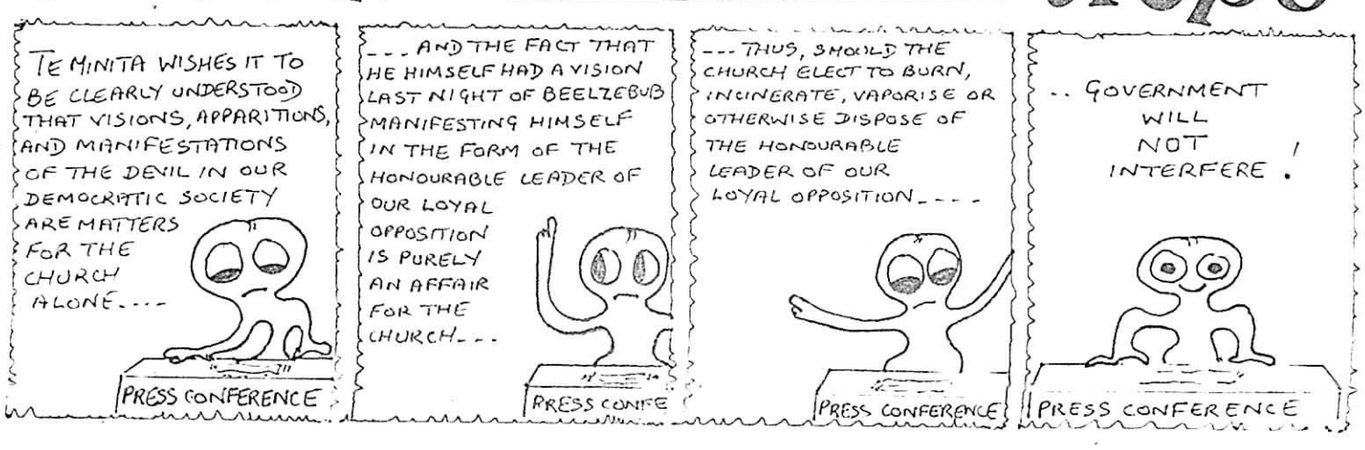
*Tourism begins to take off with a vengeance, again under Geoffrey Henry.

*The economic "boom" begins in earnest.

*The long, slow rot in the social services starts.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

the quorums an everyday tale of political folk **tropo**


TE MINITA WISHES IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT VISIONS, APPARITIONS, AND MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DEVIL IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY ARE MATTERS FOR THE CHURCH ALONE....
PRESS CONFERENCE
...AND THE FACT THAT HE HIMSELF HAD A VISION LAST NIGHT OF BEELZEBUB MANIFESTING HIMSELF IN THE FORM OF THE HONOURABLE LEADER OF OUR LOYAL OPPOSITION IS PURELY AN AFFAIR FOR THE CHURCH...
PRESS CONFE
...THUS, SHOULD THE CHURCH ELECT TO BURN, INCINERATE, VAPORISE OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF THE HONOURABLE LEADER OF OUR LOYAL OPPOSITION....
PRESS CONFERENCE
..GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERFERE!
PRESS CONFERENCE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

May-June 1985

Dissatisfaction from Geoffrey Henry links up with the Ingram/Pokino resentments and a vote of no confidence is announced.

Amidst a renewed constutional crisis Davis (with the rumoured help of Tupui Henry) heads off the vote by isolating Terepai Maoate, Raymond Pirangi, Jim Mare and Nga David from the CIP's.

August 1985

Geoffrey Henry is dismissed. Coalition II is formed with the four "rebel" CIP's (later joined by Mariri Parataiinga and Bill Paiti) in government. G. Henry becomes official Leader of the opposition and works together with the two "rebel" Demos (the Demo Tumus).

*The era of alleged Davis "autocracy sets in with bizarre infrastructural proposals, "bizarrer" foreign policy stances and the "bizarrest" of overseas investor contacts.

August 1987

Alarmed at the prospect of entering an election under Davis' eccentric leadership, Ministers George, Robati, Maoate and Mangaian Matepi mount a palace coup, declare no confidence in themselves and, after one of the lost Monty Python scripts has been acted out in Parliament, set themselves up at the head of Coalition III.

*Several localised development initiatives.

*Mounting public dissatisfaction reported with the social services and lack of policy planning.

*Mounting resentment over trips and perks by Ministers.

January 1989

????????????

The lingering backlog of issues which are still relevant:

*The moral right of the Coalition to have formed successive governments without no public mandate. (This was a crucial aspect of the 1983 election when the public stated quite firmly that they considered the Demos to have virtually usurped government through the courts in 1978.

*The rights of MP's to cross the floor without reference to their constituencies.

*The Henry-Henry leadership battle among the CIP's.

*Geoffrey Henry's ability to hold on in a crisis.

*What has happened to the old CIP natural majority built up by Albert?

Logically, everything ought to point to a CIP comfortable win. Their strongest cards are public resentment at individual MP's ruling for over four years without a full public mandate and appearing to make great personal profit out of the process AND a deep-running feeling that we ought to be getting back to some properly planned management in government by the only group capable of forming an independent government, the CIP's.

However, they are without their best election tactician Tupui Henry and they have so far mounted a last minute, hesitant campaign in which issues have not been clearly pinned down. They do not give the impression of being the competent managers which ought to be their strongest sales point to the voter.

Nevertheless, history indicates that the CIP's are capable of a 16-17 seat landslide. But at this stage, they look a long way short of that.

Illogically, the nameless triple faction glad-wrapped under the title of "coalition" are still in the hunt, even with an incoherent policy, a patchy record and an unadmired profile.

They have played their ace card (incumbancy) until it is dog-eared and limp with over-use. But, they have played it well.

What the public are unable to see at close hand is the rugged grass-roots work done back home in the individual constituencies. The CIP's offer promises and a spotty history. The coalition lads can point to plenty jobs, a bit of tar-seal here, some running water there and lots and lots of flowing cash (together with lots and lots of rising prices!)

The coalitionists have taken a gamble on "issues" like education, health, power and single income levels being strictly for the birds (papa'a birds and rich Maori birds) as far as the basic Maori voter is concerned.

It is a cynical approach but the world is what it is and not what it ought to be and so it is effective... ..especially when combined with the nebulous concept of peaceful taokotai-anga and the all too real prospect of a place in government no matter who you are...(a particularly compelling argument to those who remember the historical fate of those out of government under both CIP's and Demos).

As of now, history tends to offer the following:

*A CIP landslide OR....

*A mess of a hung Parliament resolved by wholescale vote trading.

It does not seem to indicate any prospect of a return to government of an identical coalition to the one we have now.

(From the Tura Koronui Campaign Committee)

SOME PEOPLE HAVE READY ACCESS TO MONEY. TURA KORONUI DOES NOT. PLEDGE MORE THAN YOUR VOTE. DONATE TO TURA KORONUI'S CAMPAIGN. P.O. Box 882, Rarotonga.

ER____

Scene: THE OVAL OFFICE. MID-AFTERNOON

RR: Top o' the mornin' Nancy darlin'.

NR: George is waiting to see you, dear.

RR: Who's that no good hombre pokin' around ma corridor, Nance...? Skinny dude. Bit of a wimp.

NR: That's George, dear.

RR: Er..George ?

NR: George Bush, dear. Your Vice-President.

RR: Ain't he the guy we send to the burials ?

NR: That's right, dear.

RR: Well, goldarnit, why ain't out there looking fer a burial to represnt me at ?

NR: He's going to be the new President, dear.

RR: New President? Since when did we Have TWO Presidents?

NR: He's been elected, honeybunch.

RR: That no good son of a gun! We'll see who's President around here! Hand me mah shotgun, Nancy.

NR: Careful, dear, remember your place in history.

RR: Don't you worry yer perty little head about his'try, Nancy. This here White House ain't big enough for me and that wimp. Just wake me up if he pokes his nose in round here again.

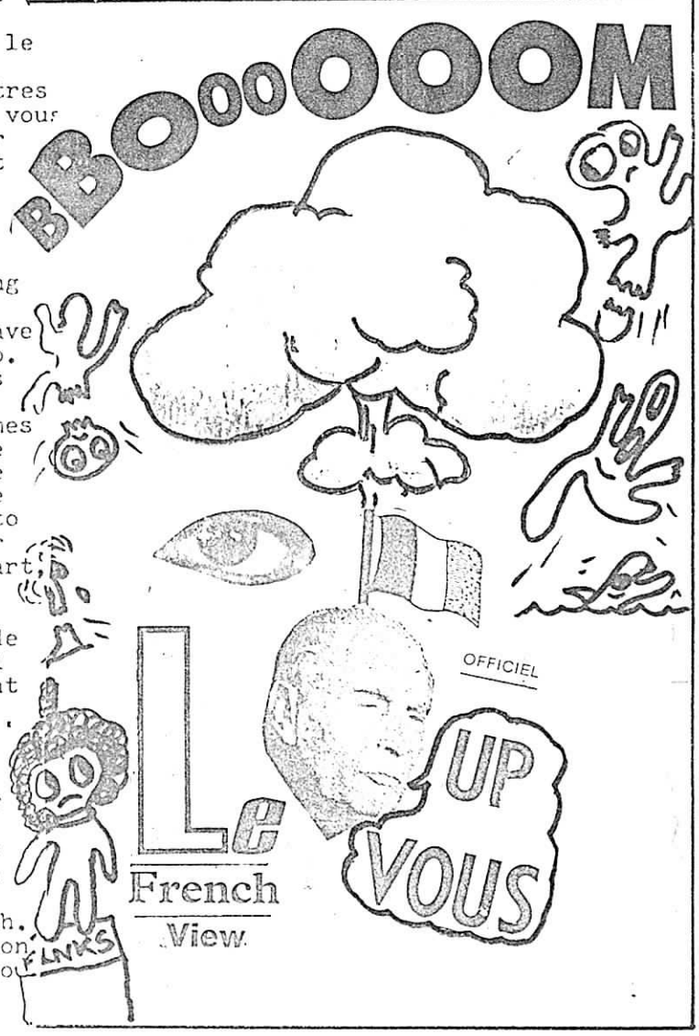
(Dozes).

Le French View

'Allo. Et un jolly bon jour again to vous all out there dans le ghastly Anglo-Saxonia far from le mighty shores de Frogland. Je am tres delighted to let vous all know je's sur top form now that le tres feeble Roccardy IV have replaced le ghastly Sheer Crap, un appalling chap to whom les voters rightly gave le grand heave-ho. Parlant about les voters, je would like to pass on mes best wishes to le General Normal de Gorge up la in le chateau et also to le noble Seigneur Geoffroi le Upstart, mon bon Comrade Renavitch, le grand commissar de la Gulag Arorangi et le tres amusant Cookie le Court, le first man to land on le dark side of Nauru. To say nothing of mon cher King Pupuke le Unready et les lads up la in les frozen wastes of le North. Un free trip to mon next megatonner to le winner!

Tout le best.

Le Grand Frog.



HALF MARX

THIS MORNING AT 0302 HOURS THE 49TH TANK BRIGADE WILL BE ISSUED WITH INFLATABLE PINK BALLOONS TO HANG ON THEIR TURRETS INSCRIBED "WE LOVE EVERYONE." ANYONE FAILING TO WAVE COMPLY WITH THIS DRAMATIC NEW PEACE INITIATIVE WILL BE DISMANTLED, PHASED OUT AND SHOT!

When Tura Koronui gets in, the only Atiuan that will lose his job is Norman. Donations to Tura Koronui Campaign P.O. BOX 882 Rarotonga. (by the Tura Koronui Campaign Committee)

Letters

"What's happened? Get back in print. We miss you. The recorded history of Atiu is at stake etc."

Or words to that effect.

Yours,

Bob Worthington,
Honolulu.

Not so dear Sir,

This letter is written in advance. I don't like your paper. Hallelujah.

Der Mayor.

Dear Applicant,

Re: HOUSING LOAN.

No!

Yours faithfully,

Chief Accountant,
International Monetary Fund.

THE LAST WORD

Commiserations and best wishes to Mrs. Nane George currently reported to be unwell and recuperating in New Zealand.

The JOURNAL extends its best wishes to Norman and the George family as friends, subscribers ...and, sometimes, opponents.

From Enua Manu, get well soon, Nane!

EMPIRE

To the Cook Islands, my dear, dear country....which this year honours one hundred years since the British protectorate. God bless you, Cook Islands...the only nation on earth prepared to celebrate the ARRIVAL of imperialism. If only the rest of the world was similar. But alas! It is not. The dagos have taken over and things are really getting beyond a joke out there amidst the last relics of Empire, by jove!

letter from the empire

by jingo life is frightful dear
there's little left for us out here
everything we understood
i do believe has gone for good
the shooting's rough the hunting's poor
nothing's sacred any more
quite appalling jolly sad
like hearing frogs describing chad
the polo's just been localised
with all the bally rules revised
the final chukka's in the nude
the ponies then get barbequ'ed
veronica was raped last night
but gave the blighters quite a fright
she tied their balls in girl guide loops
and skewered them with croquet hoops
the golf club's going to the dogs
the pool is full of oily wogs
there's homebrew in the sunday punch
and millet soup with yams for lunch
the workers' flats on number five
preclude a decent sort of drive
the bunker's mined with molotovs
the caddies wear kalashnikovs
the piccaninnies bless their souls
are defecating in the holes
so when you down a chip in one
and wonder where the pill has gone
it isn't very nice at all
trying to retrieve your ball
still sambo's serving trout tonight
with pink gins in the candlelight
the sunset's low upon the hill
and my verandah's getting chill
so lob a houseboy on the fire
one last pipe and then retire.

VERA

PERFORMANCE

Word is out that some big ones will drop in this election. Four names are clearly whispered. Maybe five. Who ? SEE NEXT WEEK!!

RISK IS EVERYWHERE THAT'S WHY YOU NEED

COALITION

ANOTHER WORD FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

(Atiuans in support of Coalition Government)

A CHANCE FOR ALL TO SHARE IN DEVELOPMENT

Te-Reo-O-Te-Kuki-Airani

Rarotonga's Real Newspaper

The JOURNAL extends its congratulations and best wishes to Editor Jason Brown and the staff of Te-Reo-O-Te-Kuki-Airani..The PRESS on the occasion of its first edition.

In smart, professional appearance and well-balanced reporting, the PRESS fills a much, much needed gap in our national media life.

Maroiroi e Jason!

Good on yer, bro'. It's been a long road. Long life!

THE LAST WORD

OF ALL

CALL PEASAT

IF YOU CAN HANDLE IT

For the ultimate sexual fantasy over the phone

FANTASY HOTLINE

KIA ORANA